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Message Text

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47
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 SCCT-01 SAM-01 /074 W
---------- 029379
O 211208Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7329
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2442

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SY LE
SUBJ: APRIL 20-21 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. DAMASCUS MEDIA COVERAGE OF LEBANON LESSENED APRIL 20. AL-BAATH BANNERED: "VEHEMENCE OF CLASHES HAS DIMINISHED IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS DAYS." AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED: "SUBCOMMITTEES TO CONSOLIDATE CEASEFIRE AND PREPARE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR ELECTING NEW PRESIDENT OF LEBANON. SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE RESUMES MEETING UNDER KARAME'S CHAIR-MANSHIP. POLITICAL ACTIVITY CONCENTRATES AROUND DEVELOP-MENT OF SITUATION AND FORTHCOMING STAGE IN LIGHT OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE." AL-THAWRAH REPORTED THAT SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE DECIDED TO FORM SUBCOMMITTEES TO IMPLEMENT CEASEFIRE, AND ADDED THAT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND THAT ELECTION FOR FRANGIE'S SUCCESSOR WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK. FOLLOWING MEETING KARAME
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HOSTED LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY COLS. KHULI AND MADANI,

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ZUHAYR MUHSIN, KARIM PAKRADOUNI AND OTHERS. PRESS NOTED
THAT VARIOUS GROUPS IN LEBANON HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
SYRO-PALESTINAIN ACCORD.

2. APRIL 21 MEDIA REPORTING HIGHLIGHTED DENIAL OF SECRET
CLAUSES ATTACHED TO SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD. PRESS AND
RADIO CARRIED FOLLOWING STATEMENT, "COMMENTING ON SOME NEWSPAPER
REPORTS ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SECRET CLAUSES ATTACHED TO DAMASCUS
ACCORD RELATED TO SITUATION IN LEBANON, AN INFORMED SOURCE STATED
THAT ACCORD WAS WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AND THAT ACCORD DID NOT
CONTAIN ANY SECRET CLAUSES. SOURCE DEEMED SUCH
NEWS ABSURD AND WONDERED WHAT SUCH SECRET CLAUSES COULD
BE AND WHY THERE SHOULD BE SECRET CLAUSES. ISSUE PERTAINED
TO ASSISTANCE IN STOPPING FIGHTING IN LEBANON WHICH IS
WHAT SYRIA AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE STRIVE FOR. THEIR
DESIRE TO STOP MASSACRE NEEDS NO SECRET AGREEMENTS."

3. APRIL 21 PRESS REPORTED EFFORTS BY SUPREME MILITARY
COMMITTEE TO ENFORCE CEASEFIRE THROUGH EXECUTION OF
VIOLATORS IF NECESSARY. PRESS CITED STATEMENT IN PLO
NEWS ORGAN EMPHASIZING NEED FOR COHESION AMONG LEFTIST
FACTIONS IN LEBANON AND LAUDED DAMASCUS ACCORD "WHOSE
MAIN CLAUSES PROVIDE FOR REJECTING AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS
IN LEBANON, SUBSEQUENTLY OPPOSING ISOLATIONIST PLOT CON-
COCTED BY CIA CIRCLES AND ZIONISM."

4. SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE MAS'UD DEPARTED DAMASCUS
APRIL 20 AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID TO
PRES ASAD. MAS'UD TOLD SANA THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD DEALT
WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND SITUATION IN LEBANON. HE
STRESSED JOINT SYRO-SAUDI CONCERN FOR CONTINUATION OF
CEASEFIRE AND PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING POLITICAL SETTLE-
MENT, AND REITERATED THEIR CONCERN TO MAINTAIN GOOD
RELATIONS WITH ALL LEBANESE FACTIONS.

5. TISHRIIN CONTINUED ITS OUTSPOKEN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY
ON LEBANESE CRISIS. APRIL 21 TISHRIIN CLAIMED THAT,
"THOSE WHO KINDLED FIRE OF SEDITION IN LEBANON AND POURED
OIL ON ITS FIRES EVERYTIME IT CALMED DOWN WERE SEEKING
TO CONCEAL SINAI AGREEMENT BEHIND SMOKE OF LEBANESE FIRE
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AND TO ENABLE ISRAELI OCCUPATION TO FEBRICATE BATTLE
BETWEEN ARABS THEMSELVES. THEY WERE HOPING TO COAT NEW
IMPERIALIST PLOT WITH PROJECT OF ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY
WITHOUT AWARENESS OF ARAB MASSES." EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT
THOSE WHO STIRRING UP TROUBLE IN LEBANON INTENDED TO
"RENDER QUESTION OF EXTENDING UNDOF MANDATE IN GOLA
GOLAN
AUTOMATIC, IN VIEW OF SYRIAN SUCCESS LAST YEAR IN MAKING

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ISSUE OF EXTENSION A POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR MARKED CHANGE
IN UN TREATMENT OF PALESTINE QUESTION." EDITORIAL COMMENTED
THAT SYRIA COULD NOT ALLOW EXTENSION TO BECOME AUTOMATIC
AND ISRAELI OCCUPATION TO BECOME ACCEPTED AS FAIT
ACCOMPLI. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "JUST AS ISRAELI ENEMY
AND HIS PROTECTORS WERE SURPRISED AT END OF 1975 WITH
GREAT SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC VICTORY AT SC, THEY WILL BE
SURPRISED IN DAYS TO COME THAT THEIR CALCULATIONS
WERE WRONG AND THAT SYRIA WILL NOT ALLOW QUESTION OF UNDOF
EXTENSION TO BECOME AUTOMATIC."

6. APRIL 20 TISHRIIN COMMENTED THAT SINCE BEGINNING OF
FIGHTING "SYRIAN INITIATIVE CONCENTRATED ON FINDING
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO RESIST IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST SCHEME
AIMED AT DESTROYING LEBANESE PEOPLE AND LEBANESE UNITY
IN ORDER TO CREATE SMALL CONFESSIONAL STATES WHICH WOULD
INCREASE CHANCES OF SURIVIAL FOR ZIONIST ENTITY." ANOTHER
TISHRIIN EDITORIAL OPINED THAT "PARTITION OF LEBANON IS
BASIC DESIGN OF IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST SCHEME, AND THEREFORE
BASIC GOAL OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IS PREVENTION OF
PARTITION BY ANY MEANS."
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